

## CLAIMS

I claim:

sub 17<sup>1</sup>.  
comprising:

- 1.\ A method for utilizing an object that is dependent on object data

5 (a) storing the object data for the object separate from a file containing an instance of the object;

(b) obtaining a request to load the file;

(c) determining if the object data is available; and

(d) if the ~~object~~ data is available:

10 (1) obtaining the object data; and

(2) utilizing the object data to display a graphical representation of  
ect.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying an empty  
15 graphical representation if the object data is not available.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing a universally unique identifier (UUID) with the file to match the object and the object data.

20            4.        The method of claim 1 further comprising storing a reference to the  
object data in the file.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the object data is stored on a secure  
5 server and wherein the determining if the object data is available further comprises  
determining if the request to load the file provides proper access permissions for the  
object data.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the request to load the file originates  
10 from outside of a network where the object data is stored and the object data is not  
available because a network security mechanism determines that the request does not  
provide the proper access permissions.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the separate location is on a supplier's  
15 network and a supplier maintains and updates the object data.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the utilizing the object data occurs in real time across a network.

20            10.    The method of claim 1 wherein:

                 the file is a drawing;

                 the object is a drawing component; and



15. The system of claim 14 wherein the reference is a uniform resource locator (URL).

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the request to load the file originates from a network other than a network that hosts the secure server where the object data is stored and the object data is not available because a network security mechanism determines that the request does not provide the proper access permissions.

19. The system of claim 11 wherein the means for utilizing the object data occurs in real time across a network.

20. The system of claim 11 wherein:  
the file is a drawing;  
the object is a drawing component; and  
5 the object data provides the graphical representation of the drawing  
component.

10 21. An article of manufacture embodying logic for performing a method for  
utilizing an object that is dependent on object data, the method comprising:

(a) storing the object data for the object separate from a file containing an  
instance of the object;

15 (b) obtaining a request to load the file;

(c) determining if the object data is available; and

(d) if the object data is available:

(1) obtaining the object data; and

20 (2) utilizing the object data to display a graphical representation of  
the object.

22. The article of manufacture of claim 21, the method further comprising

displaying an empty graphical representation if the object data is not available.

23. The article of manufacture of claim 21, the method further comprising storing a universally unique identifier (UUID) with the file to match the object and the  
5 object data.

24. The article of manufacture of claim 21, the method further comprising storing a reference to the object data in the file.

10 25. The article of manufacture of claim 24 wherein the reference is a uniform resource locator (URL).

26. The article of manufacture of claim 21 wherein the object data is stored on a secure server and wherein the determining if the object data is available further  
15 comprises determining if the request to load the file provides proper access permissions for the object data.

27. The article of manufacture of claim 26 wherein the request to load the file originates from outside of a network where the object data is stored and the object  
20 data is not available because a network security mechanism determines that the request does not provide the proper access permissions.

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29. The article of manufacture of claim 21 wherein the utilizing the object  
5 data occurs in real time across a network.

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